

Remarks


In the Office Action mailed July 23, 2004, pending claims 1-11, 24,26,27,30,31, and 34-57 were allowed. Claims 12 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,292,539 (Eichen) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,349,130 (Posthuma). The Office Action also objected to claims 13-18 and 21-23 as being dependent on a rejected base claim but the Examiner indicated claims 13-18 and 21-23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims.

By this amendment, claims 12 and 19 have been cancelled and claims 13, 17, 21, and 22 have been amended to be in independent form as suggested. Accordingly, all pending claims, including claims 13-18 and 21-23, are directed to allowable subject matter.

No new matter has been added but new claim fees may be due since the number of independent claims may exceed the number previously paid for. Towards, that end, the Commissioner is also hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account Number 20-0515 for any fee deficiency, or to credit this Deposit Account Number for any overpayment.

Applicant contends that the application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R J Hampsch', written over a horizontal line.

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